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# Cuba, Laos Two Hot Battles In Reds' World War

By DAVID LAWRENCE

WASHINGTON—The Soviet government would like to have everybody in the world think that the Castro demand for a reduction in the American embassy staff in Havana, which led to the break in diplomatic relations with Cuba, is just an isolated affair between Cuba and the United States. The Moscow regime would also like to give the impression that what's happening in Laos is a spontaneous uprising of the people in protest against alleged interference in their internal affairs by the United States.

## RED OFFENSIVE

Actually, both events are the result of Communist initiative and are part of the Soviet offensive in the "cold war."

The Castro government in Cuba is advised hourly by Communist representatives just what to do to aggravate relations with the United States. The Soviet government, moreover, is engaging in a worldwide offensive designed to gain by so-called "peaceful conquest" a dominant position on every continent.

Recently General C. P. Cabell, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, made a little-noticed speech that tells a good deal about the Soviet strategy and motives. The CIA gathers information about the "cold war" which is constantly being furnished to the highest officials of the United States government.

General Cabell naturally chooses his words carefully, and the conclusions he draws can be accepted as authoritative. He says:

"What do the Communist leaders really want? The answer is, simply, the world. Call it conquest, domination, or control, their aim, as stated by themselves and as demonstrated in their actions, is to destroy freedom in the world and to impose a Communist structure on the whole globe . . .

"Theirs is the language of total war. They have a consistency and a single-mindedness about promoting a world revolution which is

unique in the history of dictatorships. We have been warned before, by Hitler, of plans for world domination. We cannot ignore the present, clear Communist warning . . .

"The Soviets have one great intangible resource which can best be described as gall. They are showing ever-increasing confidence and even arrogance about their growth, both in material things and in influence . . .

"We in Intelligence consider that the only sensible view of Communist intentions is that they seek to destroy us by any means which they can use.

"The next question is, how? Will it be by direct military attack or by long-term erosion? The answer is both. If we display weakness in our military establishment, if they believe they could strike without suffering unacceptable damage in return, then they will strike. Similarly, if we maintain soft spots in our non-military posture at home and around the world they will, as they have in the past, seek to exploit these weaknesses . . .

"In their non-military arsenal they have at their disposal all the open techniques of diplomacy, trade, foreign aid and cultural missions which, when used by almost any other country, would be legitimate arms of official government business. The Communists have in addition local parties in nearly every country in the world—parties trained and directed by Moscow, as at the recent meeting, and dedicated to the overthrow of representative governments.

"This is no secret . . . the Soviets have boasted that there are active Communist parties in 87 countries in the world . . .

"The Soviets have the greatest machine the world has ever known . . .

"Several years ago we were inclined to say that what goes on far across the Atlantic or the Pacific does not really affect us. Then we began to recognize the

real intentions of the Communists. Several months ago we could still have said: 'Today Laos is in danger; tomorrow it may be somewhere else, perhaps closer to home.' Now we are forced to say: 'Today Laos and today Cuba, ninety miles from our shores.' . . .

"Behind their curtain of secrecy, they believe that they can make preparations for a surprise military attack . . .

"In answer to the question: 'When will the Communists strike?'—the answer is they have attacked, they are attacking, and they will continue to attack."

The foregoing is an example of what our high officials are being told every day about Communist intrigue and the way the "cold war" is being fought. But do the American people realize what's happening? Judging from some of the comments made in Congress, it is questionable whether the legislators themselves are aware of the far-reaching significance of the Soviet capture of the Castro government.

## COUNTER MOVES

It is naturally assumed that the people of the United States would disapprove of any military action to counter the Communist moves. This has been said so often that the Moscow regime believes it can go to almost any lengths and yet not meet any real resistance from the United States. Scarcely a day goes by that there aren't hints of appeasement from persons who are close to President-elect Kennedy. They talk about giving up Formosa or recognizing the Peiping regime or admitting Red China to the U.N. — all of which is grist to the Communist mill.

The real decision will have to be made soon—whether the new administration is going to face up to the Communist threat and call the Soviet bluff. Laos and Cuba are incidental to the larger aspects of the "cold war."